

SECRET

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

February 17, 1956

25X1A

MEMORANDUM FOR

Operations Coordinating Board Assistant

SUBJECT: Technical Effectiveness of U.S. Broadcasting

Your memorandum of October 13, 1955, transmitted the first progress report on the above subject, prepared within CIA by the Broadcast Evaluation Section established under paragraph 8a of NSC #169.

In accordance with your suggestion, the views of the interested Agencies and Departments were obtained through the TPIB and the following comments represent the consolidated views of the various operators:

1. As an indication of progress, the report is in general a good one. It is evident, however, that progress to date is most notable in the organizational aspects of the Broadcast Evaluation Section's (BES) activities. Since the problems faced by the Section are largely unprecedented, it is perhaps not surprising that a substantial part of the discussion concerns the problems involved in collecting and analyzing the required data. It is not apparent that such problems have been fully solved and, consequently, the caveat that the report's conclusions should be viewed with caution is well founded.
2. The report seems well summarized in the following extract
"...although the organization has been established, procedures put into effect, a staff recruited and trained, and data flow initiated, results to date must generally be considered as tentative and subject to many qualifications."
3. Major questions on monitoring procedures, the validity of peripheral monitoring, and the technical effectiveness of United States international broadcasting remain unanswered. With the organizational phase of the BES completed, it is now expected that such major questions will be answered.
4. On the basis of the foregoing, it is recommended that:
 - A. Future reports endeavor to provide definite information with respect to (1) the extent to which United States international broadcasting can be heard in the Soviet bloc countries and (2) the conditions under which peripheral monitoring is valid.

SECRET

SECRET

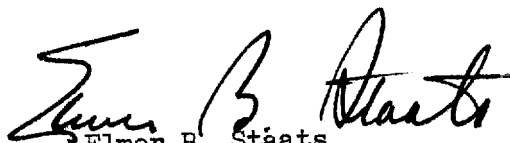
Approved For Release 2001/07/28 : CIA-RDP78-01634R000300070041-7

-2-

B. Subsequent progress reports be submitted by the Broadcast Evaluation Section to the Operations Coordinating Board semi-annually.

The recommendation that future reports be submitted semi-annually was made in view of the fact that OCB will be reporting semi-annually in the future to the NSC on this project, NSC 169, para. 8 (a). This first BES report and the consolidated comments thereon were used as the basis for paragraphs A.2.a, B.6, and C.10 of OCB Progress Report on NSC 169, dated February 1, 1956.

A specialized report similar to your First Progress Report to OCB will not be necessary in the future, but it would be appreciated if regular semi-annual reports were to cover not only paragraph 8-a (Broadcast Evaluation Section activities), but also CIA's responsibility under paragraph 2 of NSC 169. This next Progress Report should be submitted to OCB by June 1, 1956.


Elmer B. Staats
Executive Officer

Approved For Release 2001/07/28 : CIA-RDP78-01634R000300070041-7

SECRET